

REMARKS

Claims 7-12 remain in this application. Claims 7-12 have been amended. Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the present amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version with Markings to Show Changes Made.**"

The Examiner's indication of allowability of claims 9 and 12, if rewritten in independent form including the base claim, is acknowledged and appreciated.

Claims 7-8 and 10-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Christie et al. in view of Clarke et al. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection because the cited references, alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest features of the present invention including first and second destination point codes, and the second destination point code being used to identify the node as one having the ability to transfer long messages, as described in claims 7 and 10.

The Christie et al. reference relates to a telecommunications system including an enhanced signal transfer point (STP) which is operable to convert the destination codes for signaling messages directed to a plurality of signaling points. The signaling messages contain codes that identify origination signaling points and destination signaling points. The origination signaling point and the destination signaling point of Christie et al. are cited in the Office Action as disclosing the claimed "first and second signaling point codes" of the present invention (see, for example, Paper No. 11, page 2, third paragraph).

In the present invention, a node includes two destination point codes, namely, a first destination point code and a second destination point code, as now more clearly described in claims 7 and 10. As such, the first (or origination) signaling point code and the second (or destination) signaling point code of Christie et al. do not disclose or suggest the two first and second destination point codes of the present invention.

Thus, even if the Clarke et al. reference were combined with Christie et al. as suggested in the Office Action, the combination would merely result in a system including an STP that handles messages having an origination signaling point and a destination signaling point and in which data sent on a SS7 network is carried at 273 octets maximum. The combination, however, still would not disclose or suggest the first and the second destination point codes, and the second destination point code which is used to identify the node as one having the ability to

transfer long messages. For these reasons, claims 7 and 10, and claims 8-9 and 11-12, which depend therefrom, are allowable over the cited references.

In light of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that, neither the Christie et al. nor Clarke et al. references, either alone or in combination with each other, teach or suggest the invention as presently claimed. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued at this time.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

Claims 7-12 have been amended as follows:

7. (Twice amended) A node which supports enhanced links, having an ability to transfer long messages which are longer than that supported by current MTP level 2 and up to a maximum length supported by SSCOP, the node comprising:

first and second ~~signaling~~ destination point codes, wherein the second destination point code is used to identify the node as one having the ability to transfer the long messages, and both the first and second destination point codes are part of a same MTP network.

8. (Once amended) A node as claimed in claim 7, further comprising MTP routing tables supporting the enhanced links, wherein the routing tables are structured such that routing between nodes with the second destination point code uses only the enhanced links.

9. (Once amended) A node as claimed in claim 7, further comprising SCCP translation functions supporting the enhanced links, the SCCP translation functions being engineered such that primary translation is to be logical destinations reachable via the enhanced links and backup translation is to be logical destinations reachable via links based on MTP level 2 if translation results in a physical destination located in a node supporting the enhanced links.

10. (Twice amended) A node which supports enhanced links, having an ability to transfer long messages which are longer than that supported by current MTP level 2 and up to a maximum length supported by SSCOP, the node comprising:

first and second ~~signaling~~ destination point codes, wherein the second destination point code is used to identify the node as one having the ability to transfer the long messages, and both the first and second point codes ~~being~~ are part of different MTP networks.

11. (Once amended) A node as claimed in claim 10, further comprising MTP routing tables supporting the enhanced links, wherein the routing tables are structured such that routing between nodes with the second destination point code uses only the enhanced links.

12. (Once amended) A node as claimed in claim 10, further comprising SCCP translation functions supporting the enhanced links, the SCCP translation functions being engineered such that primary translation is to be logical destinations reachable via the enhanced links and backup translation is to be logical destinations reachable via links based on MTP level 2 if translation results in a physical destination located in a node supporting the enhanced links.